

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 BIB-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS/BK

APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS

DOD/IAF:HVALENTINE (SUBS)

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R 071639Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, ETEL

SUBJECT: AFRTS, IR

1. DURING CALL ON NEA/IRN, IRANIAN CHARGE RAISED QUESTION OF OPERATIONS OF AFRTS. READING CAREFULLY FROM FONOFF COMMUNICATIONS, MAJD SAID THAT "PERHAPS CURRENT NAME OF AFRTS GIVES POSSIBILITY OF SOME MISUNDERSTANDING IN VIEW CHANGE OF CONDITIONS IN IRAN". FONOFF, THEREFORE, ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE "SOME ALTERATION" IN NAME, FOR EXAMPLE, THE "INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM". HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOI WANTS AFRTS PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE, "HAS NO INTENTION TO LIMIT THE PROGRAM" AND ON THE CONTRARY WOULD LIKE TO FIND WAYS TO HAVE AFRTS PROGRAMS RELAYED TO OTHER CITIES IN IRAN.

2. WE INFORMED MAJD THAT THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER IN TEHRAN AND THAT A NUMBER OF STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO LOWER THE VISIBILITY OF THE AFRTS WHICH, WE THOUGHT, HAD GENERALLY MET HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERNS. WE ASSURED HIM WE WOULD TRANSMIT HIS VIEWS TO THE EMBASSY.

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3. IN VIEW OF ARMISH/MAAG CHIEF'S DISCUSSION WITH

TOUFANIAN AND RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN IRAN COUNTRY
DIRECTOR AND DCM MIKLOS, WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT AFRTS ISSUE
WAS DORMANT. THIS MAY BE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF FONOFF BEING
SEVERAL WEEKS BEHIND IN ITS INFORMATION. WOULD APPRE-
CIATE YOUR COMMENTS. INGERSOLL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE077988
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CWNAAS/BK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750121-0058
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750475/aaaacqjk.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFRTS, IR
TAGS: MILI, ETEL, AFRTS
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006